

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on March 2, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Linda Taylor, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Duane Johnson, State Library
Craig Grant, KNEA
Alan Weis, KTEC
Mary Kay Culp, Kansas Catholic Conference

Others attending: See Attached List

Hearings were opened on **HB 2591 - State education technology network (KAN-ED) established** were opened.

Duane Johnson of the State Library appeared before the committee in support of **HB 2591**. (Attachment 1) Mr. Johnson stressed the importance of the bill, stating that an information network is important to the economy and distance learning.

Craig Grant, KNEA representative, appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2591**. (Attachment 2) He stated that education and economic development go hand in hand, which makes this bill extremely important.

Mr. Grant introduced Alan Weis of KTEC who shared his thoughts on **HB 2591** with the committee. (Attachment 3)

Mary Kay Culp of the Kansas Catholic Conference appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2591**. (Attachment 4) She supports the bill, but did express concerns over how the KAN-ED will interface with federal programs.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2000.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
GUEST LIST
DATE: March 2, 2000**

NAME	REPRESENTING
Janis Mc Miller	League of Women Voters of Kansas
Jim Yavally	USD # 512
Bill Brady	his own consulting
Jim Minges	N.E. KS. LIBRARY SYSTEM
Jeffrey Fyler	STATE LIBRARY
Harshel Pease	self.
Zoni Howell	Ks Assoc. of School Boards
Suey Farmer	KHSB
Amy McDonald	KCC - staff.
Bob Lawton	LPA
Mary Kay Ouel	Ks Catholic Cong.
Craig Dunt	KNEA
Alan Weis	KTEC
Drew Fleming	Cox Communications
DVANE JOHNSON	STATE LIBRARY
Don Hummer	DISC
Dwight Schanz	DISC
Bruce Roberts	DISC
Mark Sullivan	DISC

Education Committee of the House of Representatives
Representative Ralph Tanner, Chairperson
Representative Cindy Empson, Vice-Chairperson
Representative Henry Helgerson, Ranking Minority Member

March 2, 2000

Information from Duane Johnson, State Librarian, **speaking in support of House Bill 2591, KAN-ED**, a state network for broadband connectivity and equal access to educational information.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to the Education Committee.

The KAN-ED proposal results from a useful collaboration of schools, libraries, universities, DISC, and KANREN, ably assisted by the leadership of KTEC, working together to design the network that will serve Kansas education effectively in the twenty-first century.

The motivation for this proposal is our desire to provide high quality education and in so doing, to remain competitive with the state-supported education systems that are provided in many other states. For example, the services and supports proposed for KAN-ED are already in daily use in the State of Missouri through MOREnet, that state's education network operating since the early 1990s.

In addition to the Department of Education and many groups associated with the DOE, **KAN-ED has been endorsed by -**
The Kansas Library Association
The State Library Commission
The Kansas Library Network Board
The State Library

Speaking to the benefits of the proposed network:

KAN-ED will equalize people's access to educational information and services.

Through this state-assisted network, every Kansan can have adequate access, near at hand, to local and distance education and related information services that will support the individual's education and life pursuits.

Learners in every classroom - by way of the schools, and learners in every community - by way of the local library, will have access to this education network. K through 12, vocational, college and university, and in fact **any Kansan** who wants access to this learning system will have access. With libraries, schools, and higher education working together, KAN-ED will effectively remove most geographic and economic barriers to educational information.

KAN-ED will improve connectivity by replacing inadequate modem connections with broadband access.

Broadband connection provides adequate speed of data transmission to effectively support education and information service. Some schools and more than 90% of libraries can afford only the modem connection that cannot effectively support information service for education.

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Attachment 1

KAN-ED will provide equalized access to scholarly information that will improve research for education and economic development.

Information content is an important part of this proposal. Students and researchers of all ages, in all areas of the state, will have access to the databases that will support their education goals, scholarly research, and economic development. Information from these sources is reliable, authoritative, and as technical as necessary to meet the need, and is safe for children to use.

KAN-ED will help people of all ages learn essential technology skills.

Students through the schools and universities and adults through the local library will have valuable, adequate access to technology training. With connectivity provided by this network, Kansas students and workers will become and remain competitive with those in other states who have access to their state's advanced technology. Our better trained work force will be more appealing to the industries that are important to Kansas development.

KAN-ED is necessary state infrastructure in this global information economy.

Kansas needs a coordinated information network that will facilitate information sharing among all education agencies and which will support the delivery of distance education. For the benefit of people everywhere in the state, KAN-ED should connect us together for education and public services, and also should connect us to the global information network.

The local library is a rich source of educational information to students and teachers.

The local library is the university library for the student learning through distance education.

The local library is a community's connection to the network of all other libraries from which needed information is borrowed and shared.

For the majority of people who still are not online, the local library is the point of access to the state, national, and global information network.

The local library is the inviting, non-threatening place where many adults receive their early training in computers and Internet research.

Your local library is an essential partner assisting preschool and K through 80 education.

Current Internet access to Kansas libraries needs the improvement KAN-ED can give:

14% (37) of our public libraries have no Internet connection.

62% (166) of libraries must use low speed access to the Internet.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to the committee. I'll be pleased to respond to your questions.

Duane Johnson
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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Craig Grant Testimony
House Education Committee
Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am Craig Grant and today I am speaking for the Unified School Finance Coalition. The coalition is made up of the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Kansas NEA, Unified School Administrators of Kansas, Schools for Quality Education, the Kansas Education Coalition, Kansans for Local Control, the Kansas Association of Educational Services Agencies, and the individual school districts of Blue Valley, Kansas City, Shawnee Mission, Topeka, and Wichita.

We have distributed a booklet to you previously that outlines our proposals to the 2000 Legislature. I will visit briefly about the Education Technology portion of the proposal. The coalition supports the **KAN-ED** proposal from the interim committee that is supported by the Governor. Technology is now a vital part of education, but no direct state support is currently available. The proposed statewide technology backbone would ensure every Kansas school district has equal access to the Internet.

While Kansas schools are leading the country in providing up-to-date computers, they are seriously lacking in Internet connectivity. Currently, Kansas ranks 36th in the nation in the percent of classrooms with Internet access. Our neighbor Nebraska ranks 2nd with over 80% of the classrooms connected. Colorado ranks 13th, Iowa ranks 7th, Missouri ranks 17th, and Arkansas ranks 27th. Only Oklahoma ranks below us in this category.

As far as expenditures for education technology, in the last five years, the following amounts have been appropriated by the states indicated:

- Oklahoma -- \$18.8 million
- Nebraska -- \$22.0 million
- Missouri -- \$130.0 million
- Iowa -- \$90.0 million
- Arkansas -- \$59.0 million
- Kansas -- \$12.5 million

This trend should not continue if our students in Kansas are to compete with students from other states in the coming years.

The coalition hopes this committee and the entire legislature will support the schools in finding the best way to create the "backbone" in technology we desperately need.

KAN-ED Comments

by Alan Weis - Director of Information Technology at KTEC

KAN-ED is about providing content and training to students, educators, and libraries in Kansas. It is about giving them the tools to teach and learn traditional subjects in non-traditional ways.

KAN-ED is a state managed network and providr the leadership in the state to get connected. KAN-ED is **NOT** about the state owning a network and competing with private industry vendors. The circuits and equipment will be leased and purchased from the vendors. KAN-ED will create new demand on the vendors.

We have been discussing how this is going to effect schools that have good Internet connections and how it will effect the vendors bottom-line.

Wrong focus.

We should be talking about how this is going to effect schools that have little to no Internet connections. And how if we do not act now many students and citizens in the state will be left on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Schools current connectivity.

22% have \geq T1 (66 USDs)

78% have $<$ T1 (237 USDs)

54% have \leq 56kbps (166 USDs) most of these are probably dial-up in the main office.

KAN-ED will provide equal access to robust content-filled network to all students the in the Kansas school districts. This will be a great incentive for the school districts to build out their infrastructures. This will create demand on the vendors to support these infrastructures.

I truly believe we are witness to an grand transformation of our economy. A transformation as grand as that of the 1800s when railroads where built across the nation and of the 1950s when cars, trucks, and highways turned us into suburbanites that shop at the mall.

The US Department of Commerce estimates in 2006 that half of the U.S. workforce will be employed by industries that are either major producers or intensive user of information technology products and services.

KAN-ED is about giving Kansans the tools to be better educated citizens that can compete in this global technological economy.

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Attachment 3

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 2591

March 1, 2000

Mary Kay Culp
Associate Director of Education
Kansas Catholic Conference

Chairman Tanner, members of the House Education Committee, on behalf of the Kansas Catholic Conference, I am here today to testify in support of H.B. 2591.

We have read the legal opinion requested by the Department of Administration and agree that it would be constitutional for private/parochial schools to be allowed to connect to the KAN-ED network, and urge you to insure that the final bill allows such.

We urge you to allow equitable access to the network and also the KAN-REN component.

While all our schools are state accredited, we urge you to extend access to these programs to all registered schools in Kansas, or all schools currently eligible for the federal E-rate discounts.

Thank you.

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Attachment 4